

CHAPTER NO. 964

SENATE BILL NO. 2921

By Norris, Tracy

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2753

By Pinion, DuBois, Cochran, Davis, Hill, Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 54 and Title 55, relative to transportation.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Cave Salamander was named the official state amphibian by Public Chapter 367 of the Public Acts of 1995 during the 99th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Salamander, striking in appearance, has three red external gills, a flat head and small, undeveloped eyes; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Cave Salamander, a troglodytic creature, is often found in, or near, limestone caves containing water; and

WHEREAS, although the Tennessee Cave Salamander's cousins, the Northern Spring Salamander and the West Virginia Spring Salamander, can be found from Quebec to Alabama, our Salamander calls central and southeast Tennessee home; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Support Our Troops;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the state, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Support Our Troops new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section shall contain a pictorial representation of a soldier and a child in an appropriate design. Such plates shall be designed in consultation with the board of directors of Support Our Troops, Inc.

(c) The funds produced from the sale of Support Our Troops new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to Support Our Troops, Inc., in accordance with the provisions of § 55-4-215. Such funds shall be used exclusively to operate such organization's programs and activities in Tennessee.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Education Association (TEMSEA);

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) An owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is a resident of this state and who is an emergency medical services professional authorized by subsection (b), upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Education Association (TEMSEA) new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) (1) The new specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section shall only be issued to the following health care and emergency medical services professionals who hold current licensure from the Department of Health or its division of emergency medical services, as applicable:

- (A) First responder;
- (B) Emergency medical technician - basic;
- (C) Emergency medical technician - intravenous therapy;
- (D) Emergency medical technician - paramedic;
- (E) Registered nurse;
- (F) Nurse practitioner;
- (G) Physician/medical doctor;
- (H) Doctor of osteopathy;
- (I) Physician assistant;
- (J) Respiratory therapist; or

(K) Law enforcement, fire, or military personnel who currently hold one (1) or more of the licensures enumerated in this subsection.

(2) A person applying for a Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Education Association (TEMSEA) new specialty earmarked plate shall submit proof satisfactory to the department of the applicant's current licensure in one (1) or more of the health care or emergency medical services specialties enumerated in subdivision (b)(1). In consultation with the Department of Health, the Department of Safety shall establish standards for the information and documentation necessary to constitute satisfactory proof of an applicant's current licensure in one (1) or more of such health care or emergency medical services specialties.

(c) The purpose of the new specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section is to honor the thousands of dedicated health care professionals working in emergency medical services who place their own lives on the line each day in service to their fellow human beings, while also financially supporting education, continuing education, and in-service training programs for emergency medical services providers and students.

(d) The new specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section shall be designed in consultation with the board of directors of the Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Education Association (TEMSEA).

(e) The funds produced from the sale of Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Education Association (TEMSEA) new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to Tennessee Emergency Medical Services Education Association (TEMSEA) in accordance with the provisions of § 55-4-215. Such funds shall be used exclusively to:

(1) Defray the costs incurred by emergency medical services providers, educators and students in attending conferences, in-service training, and other education or continuing education programs relative to their specialties or to maintain their licensure;

(2) Fund academic achievement awards and scholarships for Tennessee students enrolled in emergency medical technician (EMT) and EMT-paramedic training programs; and

(3) Purchase emergency medical services equipment and supplies for donation to:

(A) EMT and EMT-paramedic training programs accredited by the Department of Health; and

(B) Ambulance services licensed by the State of Tennessee that are responsible for primary 911 emergency response in their respective areas.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(_) Tennessee Wildflowers;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the state, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Tennessee Wildflowers new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall include a representation of native Tennessee wildflowers.

(c) In accordance with § 55-4-215, the funds produced from the sale of such new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to the Department of Transportation to supplement, not supplant, available funding for wildflower cultivation.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(_) Memphis Zoo;

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the State of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Memphis Zoo new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall contain an appropriate logo or design representative of the Memphis Zoo. Such plates shall be designed in consultation with the president and board of directors of the Memphis Zoological Society.

(c) The funds produced from the sale of Memphis Zoo new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to the Memphis Zoological Society in accordance with the provisions of § 55-4-215. Such

funds shall be used exclusively for the acquisition of a breeding pair of Giant Pandas and for other zoological and educational purposes.

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Sons of the American Revolution;

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) An owner or lessee of a motor vehicle who is a resident of this state, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Sons of the American Revolution new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section shall be designed in consultation with The Tennessee Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

(c) The funds produced from the sale of Sons of the American Revolution new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to The Tennessee Society, Sons of the American Revolution in accordance with the provisions of § 55-4-215. Such funds shall be used exclusively to support programs and activities in Tennessee.

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Daughters of the American Revolution;

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the state, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Daughters of the American Revolution new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall be designed in consultation with the state regent of the Tennessee Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

(c) In accordance with § 55-4-215, the funds produced from the sale of such new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to the Tennessee Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution to be used in furtherance of such organization's activities in Tennessee.

SECTION 13. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-253(c), is amended by adding the following language as new subdivisions:

(9) For honorably discharged veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and active members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the plate shall be designed by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in consultation with the Commissioner of Safety. The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall also set proof of service requirements for veterans who have served or who are still serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom to obtain such plate.

(10) For honorably discharged veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and active members of the United States Armed Forces serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, the plate shall be designed by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs in consultation with the Commissioner of Safety. The Commissioner of Veterans Affairs shall also set proof of service requirements for veterans who have served or who are still serving in Operation Enduring Freedom to obtain such plate.

SECTION 14. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-253(e), is amended by deleting the language "subdivisions (c)(3) – (c)(8)" and by substituting instead the language "subdivisions (c)(3) – (c)(10)".

SECTION 15. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(5)(H), is amended by adding the following new subdivisions thereto:

(xiv) United States military, honorably discharged members, pursuant to § 55-4-244;

(xv) United States reserve forces, honorably discharged members, pursuant to § 55-4-244;

SECTION 16. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203(c)(1), is amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of subdivision (L), by deleting the period at the end of subdivision (M), and by adding the following language thereto:

(N) United States military, honorably discharged members, pursuant to § 55-4-244; and

(O) United States reserve forces, honorably discharged members, pursuant to § 55-4-244.

SECTION 17. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-244(a), is amended by deleting the first sentence thereof in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

Registration plates are authorized for active, retired and honorably discharged members of the United States military and the United States military reserves in good standing.

SECTION 18. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-244(d), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(d) (1) All applications pursuant to this section shall contain such information as the commissioner shall require to prove eligibility for issuance of a license plate pursuant to this section. Eligibility for such cultural registration plate for United States reserve forces shall be determined by the department in consultation with the appropriate information on current and valid DD Form 2A (Res), DD Form 2N (Res), DD Form 2MC (Res), DD Form 2AF (Res), DD Form 2CG (Res) (Armed Forces of the United States Identification Card), citing that the requested is submitted by a member of the United States reserve forces, or current and valid stationing orders citing that the request is submitted by an active duty member of the United States reserve forces.

(2) A retired member of the United States military and the United States military reserves in good standing who has participated in full or voluntary early retirement authorized by the branch of the United States armed forces in which the retired member served shall also be eligible for the issuance of a cultural plate pursuant to this section. Eligibility for such cultural registration plates for retired members of the United States armed forces who have participated in full or voluntary early retirement shall be determined by the department, in consultation with the appropriate information on such retired members' "Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty" or on the current and valid forms enumerated in subdivision (d)(1). The retired members' plate shall be distinguished by a retired decal placed below the branch of service located on the left side of the license plate.

(3) An active duty member of the United States military and the United States military reserves in good standing shall also be eligible for the issuance of a cultural plate pursuant to this section. Eligibility for such cultural registration plates for active duty members of the United States armed forces shall be determined by the department, in consultation with the appropriate information on such active duty member's stationing orders required in subdivision (d)(1).

(4) An honorably discharged member of the United States military and the United States military reserves in good standing shall also be eligible for the issuance of a cultural plate pursuant to this section. Eligibility for such cultural registration plates for honorably discharged members of the United States armed forces shall be determined by the department and by consulting the

appropriate information on the DD214 form. An honorably discharged member's plate shall be distinguished by an honorably discharged decal placed below the branch of service located on the left side of the license plate.

SECTION 19. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Rotary International;

SECTION 20. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued Rotary International new specialty earmarked license plates for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall be designed in consultation with the district governor of each Rotary district in Tennessee.

(c) In accordance with § 55-4-215, the funds produced from the sale of such new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to the Rotary districts in Tennessee, to be used in furtherance of that organization's activities in Tennessee.

SECTION 21. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

(_) Youth Villages;

SECTION 22. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the State of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in § 55-4-203, shall be issued a Youth Villages new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked license plates provided for in this section shall contain an appropriate logo or design representative of the mission of Youth Villages. Such plates shall be designed in consultation with the chief development officer of Youth Villages.

(c) The funds produced from the sale of Youth Villages new specialty earmarked license plates shall be allocated to Youth Villages in

accordance with the provisions of § 55-4-215. Such funds shall be used exclusively for Youth Villages' Transitional Living Program in Tennessee.

SECTION 23. Notwithstanding the time limitations of § 55-4-201(h)(1), the Tennessee Food Bank new specialty earmarked license plates authorized for issuance pursuant to § 55-4-269 shall have one (1) year from the effective date of this act or until July 1, 2007, whichever is later, to meet applicable initial issuance requirements of § 55-4-201(h)(1).

SECTION 24. Notwithstanding the time limitations of § 55-4-201(h)(1), the Regional Medical Center at Memphis (the MED) new specialty earmarked license plates authorized for issuance pursuant to § 55-4-317 shall have one (1) year from the effective date of this act or until July 1, 2007, whichever is later, to meet applicable initial issuance requirements of § 55-4-201(h)(1).

SECTION 25. Notwithstanding the time limitations of § 55-4-201(h)(1), the Children's Hospital at Johnson City Medical Center, a St. Jude affiliate, new specialty earmarked license plate authorized pursuant to § 55-4-313 shall have one (1) year from the effective date of this act or until July 1, 2007, whichever is later, to meet applicable initial issuance requirements of § 55-4-201(h)(1).

SECTION 26. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(4), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Gold Star Mothers;

SECTION 27. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-203(b), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Gold Star Mothers;

SECTION 28. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) The Department of Safety, or any other department or agency of the state having jurisdiction, shall provide and issue, free of charge, to each woman in the state whose son or daughter served and died in the line of duty in the armed forces of the United States or its allies or died as a result of injuries sustained in such service, upon presentation of proper application, a Gold Star Mothers memorial registration plate for no more than one (1) motor vehicle or motor home which is registered or leased for private use in the name of any one (1) recipient. For purposes of this section, "private use" vehicle means any motor vehicle authorized by § 55-4-210(c), or motor home which is not used for rehire or for any other commercial purpose.

(b) The Gold Star Mothers plate provided for in this section shall include an identification legend distinctive to Gold Star Mothers. The legend shall read "Gold Star Mothers". The registration number of the

plate shall include the letters "GS" and a unique identifying number. Such plates shall be designed in consultation with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) Eligibility for Gold Star Mothers plates shall be determined by the Department of Safety by consulting appropriate documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(d) Additional such license plates may be obtained by any eligible person upon payment of the regular license fee for plates, as prescribed under § 55-4-111, plus the payment of a fee equal to the cost of actually producing the plate.


SECTION 29. The provisions of § 55-4-201(f) shall not apply to Sections 7 and 8 of this act.

SECTION 30. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 31. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 26, 2006


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this day of 2006

PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR

Pursuant to Article III, Section 18, of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, the Governor had Senate Bill No. 2921 in his possession longer than ten (10) days; therefore, the bill becomes law without the Governor's signature.